

REPLACEMENT SHEET

12 DEC 2005

TITLE

"GOLF TEE"

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a golf tee.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Golf tees comprising an inflexible shaft with a substantially bowl-shaped support surface, upon which a golf ball is balanced, are known. It may be difficult to balance a golf ball upon such golf tees, detracting from the ability of a golfer to strike the ball in a fashion that affords the best drive possible. Difficulties in balancing the ball may be particularly enhanced where the playing surface is irregular. Further, it is theorised that the amount of surface contact necessary between the ball and the tee may hinder the distance of the drive when the ball is struck by a golf club in the known manner of play.

15 Such known golf tees may also be difficult to remove from the ground after a shot has been played from the tee. This difficulty may be enhanced in situations where the playing ground is hard and dry.

20 The present invention attempts to overcome at least in part the aforementioned disadvantages of previous golf tees.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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In accordance with one aspect of the present invention there is provided a golf tee 10, characterised by a shaft 12 adapted for insertion into a surface of ground, and a pivotable support portion 16 mounted atop an upper end 18 of the shaft 12, the pivotable support portion 16 having a plurality of upright prong members 40 mounted thereupon, the prong members 40 being arranged to support a golf ball placed atop the prong members 40 such that the golf ball is positioned substantially above the upright prong members 40 and the pivotable support portion 16 is pivotable relative to a longitudinal axis of the shaft 12 so as to assist in balancing the golf ball atop the prong members 40.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a golf tee 110, the golf tee 110 characterised by a base portion 13 having at least one cavity and at least one shaft 12 with a pivotable support portion 16 arranged atop the shaft 12, the pivotable support portion 16 having a plurality of prong members 40 mounted thereupon, the shaft 12 being pivotable relative to the base portion 13 between a first position in which the shaft 12 and prong members 40 are substantially upright and the prong members 40 are arranged to support a golf ball placed atop the prong members 40 such that the golf ball is positioned substantially above the upright prong members 40 and the pivotable support portion 16 is pivotable relative to a longitudinal axis of the shaft 12 so

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as to assist in balancing the golf ball atop the upright prong members 40; and a second position in which the shaft 12, support portion and prong members 40 are disposed substantially within the cavity 15.

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AMENDED SHEET

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10 DESCRIPTION OF AN EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation view of a golf tee in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2a is a plan view of a second embodiment of a golf tee of the present invention;

15 Figure 2b is a longitudinal cross section of the golf tee of Figure 2a;

Figure 2c is an exploded longitudinal cross section of the golf tee of Figure 2b;

Figure 2d is a plan view of a second embodiment of a golf tee of the present invention, wherein the support portion is mounted on the shaft;

Figure 2e is a longitudinal cross section of the golf tee of Figure 2d;

20 Figure 3a is a plan view of the golf tee of Figure 1;

Figure 3b is a longitudinal cross section of the golf tee of Figure 1;

Figure 3c is an exploded longitudinal cross section of the golf tee of Figure 1;

Figure 3d is a plan view of a third embodiment of a golf tee of the present invention, wherein the support portion is mounted on the shaft;

25 Figure 3e is a longitudinal cross section of the golf tee of Figure 3d;

Figure 4a is a plan view of a third embodiment of a golf tee of the present invention;

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Figure 4b is a longitudinal cross section of the golf tee of Figure 4a;

Figure 4c is an exploded longitudinal cross section of the golf tee of Figure 4b; and

Figure 4d is a plan view of a third embodiment of a golf tee of the present invention, wherein the support portion is mounted on the shaft;

5 Figure 4e is a longitudinal cross section of the golf tee of Figure 4d;

Figure 5 is a longitudinal cross section of golf tee with long prong members and interconnects.

Figure 6 is a plan view of a fourth embodiment of a golf tee in accordance with the present invention;

10 Figure 7 is a side cross section of the fourth embodiment of the golf tee of Figure 6 and

Figure 8 is a front cross section of the fourth embodiment of the golf tee of Figure 6.

Referring to the Figures, where like parts are denoted by like numerals in different embodiments, there is shown a golf tee 10 comprising a shaft 12, a pivotable support portion 16 disposed atop an upper end 18 of the shaft, a stopper portion 24 disposed adjacent the pivotable support portion 16 and a plurality of upright prong members 40. The shaft 12 is an elongate member, having an upper end 18 and a lower end 20. The upper end 18 is provided with a threaded portion 19. The shaft 12 is tapered at the lower end 20 to form a pointed portion 22. The shaft 12 with pointed portion 22 is adapted for insertion into a surface of ground. The threaded portion 19 of the upper end 18 of the shaft 12 is adapted to receive the pivotable support portion 16. The pivotable support portion 16 is comprised of an upper portion 14 and a lower portion 26. The upper portion 14 and lower portion 26 are connected by a pivotable connection means 32.

The lower portion 26 of the pivotable support portion 16 includes a threaded portion 38, disposed at a lower end thereof. The threaded portion 38 is complementary to the threaded portion 19 at the upper end 18 of the shaft 12. The threaded portions 19, 38